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Comments on Revision of G-15, Revised, The Soviet Arctic

REF : Chief, Geographic Division, ORR Memo of 12 December 1958

1. First of all the paper indicates relatively heavy air activity in the Polar Regions, much of which is not so easily explained as the author indicates.

2. The paper points out that modern jet bomber aircraft based on the Kola and Chukotsk Peninsulas could cover much of the U.S. (No mention is made of the fact that the installations are, because of location, vulnerable to air attack from the U.S. or Western Europe). It is suggested that the reader be reminded that the bases on Kola enjoy year around logistic support by both rail and water; and the Chukotak area is open for water travel for a great portion of the year while the vast expanse of territory lying between these two extremities is not so fortunate and relies almost entirely upon sea navigation during the summer months. (Soviet air lift has not been impressive where great amounts of freight are involved).

3. It seems unlikely that the Soviets would stage or base large jet aircraft at points not readily accessible by rail or sea routes. The movement and storage (over long periods), of large amounts of POL required (this is only one item although a major one) presents too great a problem.

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